



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO CONTAMINATED MEAT**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owner of a defunct food processing and distribution company pleaded guilty in federal court today to storing meat in unsanitary conditions, which caused thousands of pounds of meat to become contaminated by rodents.

**Linh Vi Lam**, 47, owner of Lam Foods, Inc., waived her right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., to a federal information that charges her with offering adulterated food for sale.

**Lam's** firm, which did business as Big Bird Poultry at 2307 Troost in Kansas City, Mo., processed cuts of chicken and other meat for distribution to various hotels and restaurants in the Kansas City area. Big Bird Poultry is no longer in business, although **Lam** continues to operate Lam Foods, Inc.

By pleading guilty, **Lam** admitted that she caused 6,935 pounds of beef, pork and lamb to become adulterated by storing it under unsanitary conditions. The meat became contaminated by rodent infestation, rodent hair, gnawing and fecal matter, rendering the meat unhealthful and unfit for human consumption.

Federal inspectors discovered the infestation during an inspection of the business on April 2, 2001. **Lam** admitted that she knew about the rodent infestation. For about a month, Graves said, the plant manager swept away the rodent droppings prior to regular inspections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Graves added that all of the meat, along with 22,780 pounds of contaminated chicken, was destroyed before it could be distributed from **Lam's** facility.

Under federal statutes, **Lam** could be subject to a sentence of up to three years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Services.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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